

Essex is on the Move

“To close this week’s column, we will take a quick trip down county to check on the economic development activity in the beautiful towns of Essex and Westbrook. In Essex, recent efforts by dedicated leaders and residents have enhanced the already sterling reputation that the town enjoys throughout the northeastern United States. Key anchors like the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat, Ivoryton Playhouse, Connecticut River Museum, and The Griswold Inn, in partnership with over 700 more town businesses, continue to attract tourists and tourism dollars throughout the year.

Strategic partnerships with the state have improved the town’s infrastructure in recent years and helped to make it a more walkable and attractive place. The Steam Train’s continued growth and expansion has been a game changer for the entire region, the playhouse’s restoration and resurgence has revitalized Ivoryton village, and the historic seaport village continues to connect us to the river and to our colonial past. All of this, combined with a successful summer concert series, the Ivoryton Farmer’s Market, and even the recent filming of two movies in town, means Essex is truly on the move. I congratulate First Selectman Norm Needleman and the entire Board of Selectmen, Economic Development Consultant Susan Malan, and all town stakeholders for their terrific work.”

Larry McHugh, writer of this article is president of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce in Middletown. The article in its entirety can be found on www.middletownpress.com